

**KEEPER CAN'T
STOP
BLUES**

By MICHAEL KNOX: Wycombe Wanderers 2, Kingstonian 0

KINGSTONIAN goalkeeper Dave Collyer turned in a brilliant solo display to prevent Wycombe Wanderers picking up their first goal bonus of the season, when the teams met in a Rothmans Isthmian League Division One clash at Loakes Park on Tuesday night.

The sponsors award £40 to sides winning by three clear goals, and it would have been no surprise to see Wycombe win this one-sided game by five or six goals — and you can't blame the Blues' forwards for not scoring them because they did most things right.

But on the night they found the mercurial Collyer, who appears to enjoy playing at Loakes Park, just too good for them. He was beaten only twice — in the space of four minutes by John Priestley and Ian Pearson and saved his side on numerous other occasions.

In spite of Collyer's display, things look black for Kingstonian, who now only lead bottom club Ilford on

superior goal difference. In last week's encounter at Richmond Road, many considered them unlucky to lose 3-1 to the Blues.

But Tuesday's performance gave grounds for real fears that they could be struggling to avoid relegation at the end of the season. With Collyer a glorious exception, their play lacked character and effort against a Wycombe side whose confidence grew, the longer the match went on.

By the end of the match Wycombe were in complete command and their display in front of their own fans will have done them the world of good — for this was only their third win in seven home league games this season.

TWO CHANGES

Manager Ted Powell made two changes from the side that drew 2-2 with Bishop's Stortford on Saturday. Dylan Evans came in for Alan Davies, who has been released by the club, while Priestley, fully recovered from his groin injury, relegated Gavin Fraser to substitute.

Wycombe — and indeed both sides — started scrappily on a surface made slightly slippery by a heavy thunder shower just before the start. The result was a series of misplaced passes and misunderstandings which appeared to be sending the crowd to sleep — at one stage there was more noise on the pitch than off it.

Kingstonian just had the edge early on and striker Micky Cook hit a low shot which John Maskell, who looked back to full-fitness, saved at the second attempt. But this was the nearest Kingstonian came to scoring throughout the 90 minutes — and it is 10 years now since they even scored at Loakes Park.

The closest Wanderers went to scoring in the first half came in a hectic goalmouth scramble after 17 minutes. Evans saw two shots blocked on the line and then from the rebound, Pearson had an effort turned round the posts for one of the eight corners they forced in the

first 45 minutes.

Pearson remained the major threat with his elusive running and ability to cross from the bye-line and only an acrobatic save by Collyer stopped him giving Blues a deserved half-time lead.

In the 54th minute Priestley was inches wide with a long range volley — he must have just been lining up his sights for 60 seconds later he put Wycombe ahead with an almost identical shot. Pearson played the ball out to the edge of the penalty area. Priestley let it bounce once before firing a tremendous volley inside Collyer's right hand post. The shot was so well placed that the goalkeeper had no chance.

Priestley also had a hand in the second goal four minutes later. He played a long ball into the penalty area, Evans dummied over it and the unmarked Pearson was given the simple chance of knocking it in from six yards.

BRIEF RALLY

Kingstonian rallied briefly with three quick corners but the alert Maskell and experienced Alan Phillips, who enjoyed an excellent game averted the danger and pushed play up to the other end of the field where it remained for the rest of the game.

The game virtually boiled down to a contest between Wycombe and Collyer — and the goalkeeper can claim to have come out on top. The highlight of his display came 10 minutes from time when he brought off a dramatic double save which drew applause from the home fans.

Collyer did well to reach a low shot by Holifield but could not hold it. The ball bobbed straight to Pearson, who appeared to have the simple task of putting it into the net. Pearson did everything right only to see Collyer make a remarkable point-blank save with a dive to his left.

So Wycombe were denied their goal bonus, but in every other respect, they can be highly satisfied with their performance which keeps them in close contact with the leaders.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell, M. Sorenson, B. Davies, K. Mead, A. Phillips, J. Priestley, H. Kennedy, M. Holifield, H. Kettleborough, I. Pearson, D. Evans, Sub: G. Fraser (not used).

KINGSTONIAN: D. Collyer, P. Dade, D. Dyer, W. Roberts, B. Webb, J. Field, T. Waughman, A. Field (Sub: A. Eglite 46 mins), M. Cook, A. White, R. Horstead.

Referee: J. Morrell (Teddington).

Attendance: 1,150.

Half-time 0-0. Scorers: Wycombe: Priestley (54), Pearson (58).